

HOUSE RESOLUTION 288

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to commend Dennis Harrison on his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this body to recognize and commend those individuals who selflessly give of themselves to the great benefit of those charitable organizations within their communities and the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, such worthy individuals are former National Football League (NFL) gridiron greats, Coach Ken Shipp, Jim "Pork Chop" Mitchell, Dennis Harrison, and Robert James, who will be honored at a sports banquet honoring former professional athletes of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on March 6, 2004; and

WHEREAS, an All-Pro defensive end and ten-year veteran of the NFL, Dennis Harrison is a graduate of Murfreesboro's Riverdale High School, where he was All-State in football; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison is also a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he distinguished himself as one of the most popular and successful football players in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, relentless in his pursuit as a defensive lineman, Dennis Harrison ravaged opposing backfields during his illustrious four-year career at Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, he was named Defensive Most Valuable Player of the 1974 Peach Bowl and was a First Team All-SEC selection in 1977; and

WHEREAS, after completing his senior season, Mr. Harrison was selected to play in three prestigious All-Star games: the Hula Bowl, the Blue-Gray Classic, and the Japan Bowl; and

WHEREAS, he also distinguished himself in the classroom at Vanderbilt and was selected Academic All-SEC in 1976 and 1977; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Harrison was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1978 and played seven outstanding seasons with the team; he was a 1983 Pro Bowl selection and played in Super Bowl XV; and

WHEREAS, finishing his ten-year NFL career with 39.5 sacks, he still ranks among the all-time sacks leaders for the Eagles, even though he played several seasons before sack statistics were officially kept by the NFL; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Harrison's phenomenal prowess on the gridiron has been appropriately recognized by his induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Middle Tennessee NFL Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary individual on the field of play, Mr. Harrison continues to be a role model for our children to emulate through his meritorious service as a teacher and coach at Brentwood Middle School, providing guidance and support to every student under his supervision; and

WHEREAS, Coach Harrison previously directed the football and wrestling programs at Page High School; in 1996, his wrestling squad finished second in the State, and he was honored as TSSAA's Class A/AA Coach of the Year for his inspired leadership and tutelage; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Harrison also served as an assistant football coach for seven years at Franklin Road Academy, during which time the team won the state championship in 1991, and he has previously served his alma mater as defensive line coach at the collegiate level; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dennis Harrison has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Dennis Harrison on his excellent career in the National Football League and his outstanding service to his community as a teacher, coach, and molder of young lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

